



Embassy of the United States of America

Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Mark Carr

Tel: 076 515 000

UPDATE: CHANGES TO NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES, INCLUDING NEW NUMBER FOR APPOINTMENTS

The U.S. Embassy in Freetown implemented new visa application procedures effective March 1, 2011. The following services will be provided to all applicants:

- Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fee collection
- Scheduling of visa appointments
- Information on general visa inquiries

In connection with these changes, please be informed of the following:

- MRV fees must now be paid at Ecobank. Upon payment of the MRV fee, a receipt number will be provided for the applicant in order to access the appointment system online or by phone. When the receipt number is used to book an appointment, the appointment will be tied to the applicant's passport number. MRV fee payments are no longer transferable.

- After payment of MRV fees, the applicant may book an appointment online through www.ustraveldocs.com/sl/ or by calling the customer care center at 078 144 344. The website and the customer care center are now operational. The customer care center will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. GMT, Monday to Friday, except on U.S. and Sierra Leonean holidays.
- MRV fee payments made through Sierra Leone Commercial Bank before February 28, 2011 will be valid for two months. Applicants who paid within this period or applicants who paid the fee but have not yet booked an appointment must schedule an interview through the new appointment system only.
- Applicants with confirmed interview appointments will not be affected by this transition. They can appear at the Embassy on the date scheduled and their applications will be processed as usual.